

A FIRE IN MID-OCEAN.

Steamship Venango's Narrow Escape from Destruction.

Saloon Lamp Exploded During a Strong Gale and Heavy Sea.

Prompt Work by Captain and Crew Alone Saved Their Lives.

The British steamship *Venango*, which arrived from London last night, had a narrow escape from total destruction by fire during the voyage to this port.

Capt. Wilson reports that on the 21st inst., in mid-ocean, at 10:30 P. M., during a strong northwestern gale and high sea, a hanging lamp in the saloon broke from its fastenings and, falling to the floor, exploded.

The whole cabin became immediately one mass of flames.

Capt. Wilson, who was asleep in his room, forward of the saloon, was awakened by the intense heat and smoke, and with great difficulty reached the deck and raised an alarm.

All hands rushed astir, and with much difficulty, owing to the heavy way the ship had galed, caused by the high wind, succeeded with the aid of a fire pump in subduing the flames.

This was not accomplished, however, before the interior of the cabin was completely charred and destroyed.

Capt. Wilson loses all his effects; cabin furniture and fittings completely ruined.

The chief steward was severely burned about the face and body.

The captain's valuable Newfoundland dog refused to leave the captain's room and perished in the flame.

Steward Franc Olsen was sound asleep in his room, off the main cabin. He was aroused by the noise on deck and also by the suffocating smoke entering his room. Sprouting out of bed he opened the door leading to the cabin.

A tongue of flame curled inward with the draught and wrapped itself about his legs, setting fire to his nightclothes.

He slammed the door shut and tried the door leading to the deck. It was locked and caulked. He tried in vain to open it, and finding that he could not, turned to the cabin. It was his only hope, for he felt he would be roasted to death if he did not get out on deck.

Flinging the door open he dashed through the flame. He succeeded in getting out on deck with his nightclothes on fire. The flame had also caught his hair and badly burned his face.

Some of the crew wrapped old clothes about him and extinguished the fire. He was terribly burned, also, about the body and arms.

Steward Olsen was placed in the ship's hospital and tenderly cared for during the remainder of the voyage. This morning he was taken to St. Peter's Hospital, Brooklyn, where the steamer docked at the foot of Baltic street.

The loss will reach several thousand dollars.

Had not the afternoons, where the sloop is situated, been composed of iron, the vessel would have been undeniably destroyed, as the fire had gained great headway before being discovered, and with the furious gale blowing nothing would have saved her.

MR. WHITNEY'S RETURN.

Rumor that It Will Be Attended with Retirement from Business Life.

It is reported that ex-Secretary W. C. Whitney will live in retirement on his return from his yachting cruise among the Windward Islands. Mr. Whitney is expected home to-morrow evening.

It is reported that Mr. Whitney would rather go to public school than Mr. Cleveland, but has no desire to be involved in politics again.

The report, then, circulates in Wall Street that he may not be active in financial matters again come in the nature of a superannuation.

Mr. Whitney is largely interested in Standard Oil, the Boston and Maine Railroad, wool-pulp mills, the Michigan and cable roads in the other states.

He is considered a very rich man, and the profits from his gilt-edged investments, it is said, would make him one of the richest men in America.

Mr. Whitney has decided to retire from active business, his determination has been reported to the public.

None of Mr. Whitney's friends, who were seen today, could swear with authority on the subject. The report was news to them; they said:

WESTCHESTER'S BATTLE ROYAL.

Democrats Elect Their County Ticket.

After a Fierce Contest.

WESTCHESTER, March 20.—People of this village are still celebrating the great Democratic victory which was won yesterday at the polls in a fierce contest over the election of a Supervisor. The candidates were Alfred Hennen Morris, of race-track fame, and a Democrat, and Augustus M. Field, upon whom the Republicans and independent Democrats voted.

Morris is the representative of the Duffy faction and had the support of the machine. He was elected by 26 majorities. Morris' score was 2,000 votes at the polls, and reporters and voters, when caught, were treated with very little mercy. Despite the sharp competition, however, and the workers, there is said to have been considerable colonizing on both sides. In the other towns of Westchester County the result of the election was generally successful, and the new Board of Supervisors will contain sixteen Democrats and six Republicans.

TO KEEP THE VILLAGE LAMPS.

Novel Contract Undertaken by Temperance Girls in Hoyt, Minn.

HOYT, Minn., March 20.—This village recently voted "no license," and the carpenters have said that without income fees there would be no public lighting of the streets.

Mrs. Mary Black-Topping, the woman who tried to kill her son Saarbanach by shooting him with a revolver in certain street last Wednesday, and who was arrested for robbing \$1,000 bank, has been allowed to leave. Saarbanach begged leave to withdraw the complaint of felonious assault, and was allowed to do so.

Mrs. Topping Discharged.

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Post-Office Boxes Burn.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 20.—At St. Louis, this State, a large number of business houses, including the post-office, were totally destroyed by fire Monday night. Nothing in the office except some of the stamps was saved.

SAFE-BLOWERS WELL KNOWN.

Inspector McLaughlin Tells the History of the Pawling Burglars.

Villagers Still Excited Over the Bold Robbery.

Henry Carey and John Walsh, two of the four expert burglars who are charged with blowing open the safe of the Pawling Savings Bank on Monday night and carrying off \$10,000 worth of Government bonds and \$500 in cash, were taken to Police Headquarters this morning and photographed for the *Evening World* for a second time.

They will be arraigned in Harlem Police Court this afternoon, and turned over to the officers from the town of Pawling.

WALTER L. JAMES, an English butler employed by millionaire George T. Vincent, of 46 West Thirty-fourth street, is suing his master for \$2,000 for assault, the trouble between them was caused by an innocent plate of cheese.

Mr. Edward

describes food that he ate in a restaurant on the dock. I keep the oysters and oysters and sausages had, maybe you one sat to do about it, I am poor and don't know.

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